



The Happiness of the Christ: The Prototype Example for the Advance: Mandate to Be Occupied with Christ; Pioneer & Perfecter; His Happiness & Endurance, v. 2a

V. The Prototype Example for the Advance

Hebrews 12:2 -(NKJV) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1. This verse begins with the present active participle of the verb:
ἀφορώω, *aphorōō* - “to view something with undivided attention by looking away from a distracting object and concentrating on the object in question.” We will translate: “Be concentrating”

 present: Durative; denotes that which has begun in the past and continues into the present. This is a mandate to facilitate occupation with Christ.

 active: The Church Age believer produces this action through consistent intake and application of doctrine.

 participle: Imperative; thus a command from God.
2. Note the concluding statement from verse 1: “having stripped for action by laying aside every distraction, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, let us advance on the run with endurance in the conflict that is marked out for us to engage.”
3. “Stripping for action” is the isolation of distractions and any ensnaring sin. “Advancing on the run” is putting doctrine as life’s top priority. The ability to continue the advance with “endurance” is the requirement for spiritual growth. The attainment of the objective is arrival at spiritual maturity.
4. Now we find the essential ingredient and stabilizing factor that keeps us focused on the objective: concentrating on Jesus:

Ἰησοῦς, *Iēsous* - “Jesus”; This is the Lord’s personal name and means “Savior” and emphasizes His true humanity in the Incarnation. In order for true humanity to be a qualified Savior He must also be undiminished deity therefore the hypostatic union is implied.
5. We may at this point summarize a number of things. First we have been promised eternal rewards in Hebrews 10:35-36 and the system for attaining them is faith.
6. The object of this faith is doctrinal orientation as exemplified by the pass-in-review of Old Testament heroes in Hebrews 11.
7. We learned from their advance that they received approval to receive the promises given to Israel but their conveyance has been delayed.
8. The reason for the delay is that Church Age believers must be given the opportunity to become winners and thus qualify for their escrow rewards in eternity first.
9. With this as an encouragement we are to isolate from our thinking any distractions by confessing any and all sins.



10. Having stripped for action we are free to advance on the run with endurance in the conflict marked out for us.
11. That which insures our uninterrupted advance is occupation with Christ: “Be concentrating on Jesus.” He is our prototype example for executing the spiritual life of the Church Age.
12. He has demonstrated that if He can endure the greatest suffering by utilizing the faith system then we can endure less suffering by utilization of that same system.
13. Our prototype example is now defined by two nouns, the first of which is:
ἀρχηγός, archēgos - Highest rank; signifies one who takes a lead in, or provides the first occasion of anything.
14. As the Old Testament heroes demonstrated the successful execution of the ritual plan of God, Jesus Christ in the Incarnation demonstrated the successful execution of the Christian way of life.
15. The new system had to be demonstrated so that first- century believers could understand how to make the transition from one plan to the other.
16. Thus Jesus was the Prototype Who demonstrated the new system and thus became the Pioneer for the Christian way of life.
17. We will use “Pioneer.” It is from an Old French word that means “foot soldier.” It is now defined as a “person that originates a new line of thought or a new method; to open for others to follow; to originate” [*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed., 942].
18. Jesus Christ is the Foot Soldier Who pioneered the prototype spiritual life for the Church Age.
“Be concentrating on Jesus the Pioneer and ...”
τελειωτής, teleiōtēs - “Perfecter”
19. This word is a *hapax legomenon*, a word that occurs only once in the New Testament. It is a derivative of an Ionic Greek word, **τελείωσις, teleiōsis** which means “execution of a plan; completion; conclusion.”
20. The root word is the verb **τελειόω, teleiōō** which means “to bring to an end; to finish; to complete” and refers to the perfection of Jesus in Hebrews 2:10 and 5:9.
21. Not only did Christ pioneer the system, He perfected the system. He finished what He started—perfectly!
22. Next we have the noun which describes what He pioneered and perfected:
πίστις, pistis - “of our doctrine”
23. This has reference to the mystery doctrines of the Church Age. In the Incarnation, Jesus was the prototype of the spiritual system that Church Age believers are to utilize in the execution of the Christian way of life.
24. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the link between the Incarnation and the Church Age. This mystery doctrine creates the new spiritual species and the divine operating assets required for the advance.



25. Consequently, the modus operandi for the Church Age believer is modeled after the Incarnation, not after Israel or the Mosaic Law.
26. What follows next is one of the two problem-solving devices that the Lord utilized to *endure* the cross, the noun:
χαρά, chara - “Who because of happiness”
27. What follows next in the verse refers to the Lord’s endurance of the cross and His disregard for the shame. How He did this is emphasized by two problem-solving devices.
28. The first is noted in:

Hebrews 9:14 -How much more shall the blood of Christ [**substitutionary spiritual death**], Who, through the agency of the Holy Spirit’s sustaining ministry [**problem-solving device #1 for endurance**], offered Himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

29. Problem-solving device number two which provided endurance is complete and total happiness. This indicates that the Lord was completely in sync with the plan of God and was a willing participant in its execution without regard for the negative side effects of completing the mission perfectly.
30. This perfect happiness may be defined as follows:

True happiness is an inner resource developed from maximum Bible doctrine resident in the stream of consciousness and is so advanced in its grace orientation to the plan of God that all aspects of life are evaluated with regard to eternal rather than temporal implications. Consequently, happiness is the ultimate problem-solving device.

31. This perfect happiness was demonstrated to all who gathered at the cross according to the present passive participle:
πρόκειμαι, prokeimai - “to be exposed to public view”
32. The present middle participle of this verb appeared at the end of Hebrews 12:1 describing the “conflict that is laid out for us to engage.”
33. He we have the present passive participle of **prokeimai**:
present: Signifies action in progress.
passive: Jesus Christ receives the action by having his happiness laid out for others to view.
participle: Denotes that the action takes place *simultaneously* with the main verb which is “to endure.” It describes the circumstance of our Lord’s public crucifixion.
34. This construction says to us that the happiness of Christ was exhibited—laid out for public observance— to those who gathered on Calvary and to us who study this verse.

Hebrews 12:2 -Be concentrating on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our doctrine, Who, because of His exhibited happiness ...

35. In verse 1 we are challenged to “advance on the run **with endurance** in the conflict that is laid out for us to engage.”



36. The motivation for this is provided by the pass-in-review of the Old Testament heroes. In verse 2 we have an even greater motivation to endure: our Lord was able to endure the cross because of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit and the perfect happiness that He possessed in His soul.
37. Happiness therefore becomes the foundation upon which endurance is built. Jesus had perfect happiness therefore He endured, the aorist active indicative of:
ὑπομένω, *hupomenō* - “to endure”
- | | |
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| aorist: | Constative; contemplates the action of the verb in its entirety, i.e., the Lord’s six hours on the cross which He endured. |
| active: | The humanity of Christ by means of the agency of the Holy Spirit and perfect happiness produced the action of the verb. |
| indicative: | Declarative; a dogmatic statement of biblical truth and historical fact. |
38. The greatest period of suffering in human history was experienced by our Lord on the cross. Not on the Via Dolorosa as depicted in *The Passion of the Christ*, but on the cross while being judged as the substitutionary sacrifice for our sins.

Hebrews 12:2 -Be concentrating on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our doctrine, Who, because of His exhibited happiness endured the cross having disregarded ...